वित्त मंत्रालय में आर्थिक कार्य विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुवर्डो फलेरियो): (क) और (ख) मूल्य वृद्धि को नियंत्रण में रखने के लिये सरकार द्वारा किये गये विशिष्ट उपायों में, सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिये खाद्यान्नों का अधिक वितरण करना; अतिरिक्त दुकानें खोल कर सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ करना, दालों, खाद्य तेलों और चीनी जैसी आवश्यक वस्तुओं का आयात करना, सरकारी व्यय में कठोरतापूर्ण किफायत, नकदी प्रारक्षित अनुपात और सांविधिक नकदी अनुपात को बढ़ा कर अर्थव्यवस्था में नकदी बाहुल्य को समेटना, चयनात्मक ऋण नियंत्रण लागू करना और जमाखोरों तथा मुनाफाखोरों के विरुद्ध तेजी से कार्रवाई करना शामिल है । इसके परिणामस्वरूप, गंभीर सूखे से उत्पन्न मुद्रास्फीति के दबावों को नियंत्रित करना सम्भव हो सका है ।

चालू वित्त वर्ष में 20-2-80 तक (नवीनतम उपलब्ध) थोक कीमत सूचकांक में 9.6 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज की गई है; जबकि इसके मुकाबले 1979-80 के तुलनीय सूखा वर्ष में 21 प्रतिशत से अधिक की वार्षिक मुद्रास्फीति दर दर्ज की गयी थी ।

राज्यों के मुख्य मंत्रियों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों के उप-राज्यपालों से राज्य और जिला स्तर पर स्थापित नियंत्रण कक्षों और समितियों के माध्यम से आवश्यक वस्तुओं की उपलब्धता और कीमतों पर लगातार निगरानी रखने का अनुरोध किया गया है ताकि तुरन्त कार्रवाई की जा सके । उनसे आवश्यक वस्तु अधिनियम और अन्य ऐसे ही कानूनों के उपबंधों के अनुसार, जमाखोरों और काला बाजारियों के विरुद्ध सख्त कार्रवाई करने का भी अनुरोध किया गया है ।

Recovery of Income Tax arrears

1353. SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of arrears on account of income-tax and corporation tax as on 31st January, 1988;

(b) how many assessees are in arrears of over Rs. 10 lakhs; and

(c) what are the reasons for such huge arrears and what steps Government have taken to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The amount of arrears on account of income-tax and corporation tax as on 31-1-1988 is not readily available. However, as on 30-9-87 income-tax and corporation tax demand to the tune of Rs. 3414.90 crores was outstanding out of which Rs. 1206.51 crores were not fallen due for payment.

(b) There were 3205 assessees against whom income-tax and corporation-tax demand exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs remained outstanding as on 30-9-1987.

(c) The main reasons for the arrears are time-consuming recovery processes stays granted by courts, pendency of appeals before Appellate Authorities and consequent grant of stay of recovery/grant of instalments and pendency of proceedings before the Settlement Commission.

Appropriate actions are being taken both as per Income-tax law and also administratively. Legal actions include garnishee proceedings and attachment/sale of assets of defaulters. Administratively, action plan targets have been fixed for reduction of arrears and the progress is being monitored at various levels. In cases involving high demands, the Appellate Authorities are requested to dispose of appeals expeditiously.

Revenue from oil, tea and coal in Assam

1354. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of revenue the government of India derive annually from oil, tea and coal in Assam; and

(b) what amount of revenue Assam Government earns from these items.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) As per departmental records, the total amount of central excise duty

from tea and petroleum oils (including cess on crude) during the year 1986-87 from the State of Assam is approximately Rs. 280 crores. There is no central excise duty on coal.

(b) The share of Union excise duties paid to Assam during 1986-87 on the basis of Revised Estimates is Rs. 239.54 crores. The allocation is not made in respect of individual commodities.

Ganga Cleaning Project

1355. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to certain critical remarks made by Mr. David Triggs, Project Director-India of Thames Water International, about the Ganga Cleaning Project which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated December 28, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the contents of the article which appeared in the 'Times of India', Delhi Edition, on 28th December 1987 under the caption "Ganga Project Ambitious: Expert".

Even though the newspaper article specifically stated that Mr. Triggs was not critical of the Ganga Action Plan, since some statements attributed to him appeared to convey that impression, clarification in the matter was sought. We have since received a communication to the effect that Mr. Triggs has been misquoted and misunderstood in several places. Mr. Triggs has also denied making critical references and that his reference to Ganga Project being ambitious was intended as a compliment and not as criticism. He has expressed his regrets for any misunderstanding that the interview in the newspaper article may have caused.

Violation of FERA by Kirloskar Company

1356. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kirloskar firm which violated FERA provisions had been fined by the adjudicating authorities; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the company has accepted the guilt and paid the money and what are the details of the results of inquiry and also the details of the action proposed to be taken in other cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) M/s. Hodek Engineering Works Pvt. Ltd., Pune was found guilty of contravention of the provisions of Sec. 14, 8(1), 9(1)(a) and 48 of FERA, 1973. A total penalty of Rs. 8.20 lakhs, imposed on the company, has been paid.

The adjudication proceedings initiated in other cases of Kirloskar Group are pending.

Wood required for curing tobacco leaf

1357. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one tree is burnt to cure every 300 cigarettes manufactured in the country as brought out in Probe-India, July 1987 issue;

(b) whether for every acre of flue aired tobacco especially in countries such as India, one acre of forest land is used up for curing; and

(c) whether any study has been conducted to link the spread of desert to tobacco growing and if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps proposed to be taken?